



Centre Universitaire Abdelhafid Boussouf Centre E-learning



English – Level1

Lesson 5

Adjectives in English

Staff pédagogique			
Nom	Grade	Institut	Adresse e-mail
Djalal Mansour	MCB	Lettres et Langues	djalal.mansour@centre-univ-mila.dz
Assia Azzoui	MCB	Lettres et Langues	a.azzioui@centre-univ-mila.dz
Amel Bouarroudj	/	Lettres et Langues	ameliab583@yahoo.co.uk

Etudiants Concernés Semestre 1			
Institut	Département	Année	Spécialité
Lettres et Langues	-Langues Etrangère	Licence1	Français.
Sciences et Technologie	-Mathématique et informatique -Sciences Techniques.	Licence1	-MI. -ST.
Sciences Economique	-Sciences Economique. -Sciences Commerciales. -Sciences de la Gestion.	Licence1	Toutes les spécialités.

Objectives of the Lesson:

- i. To make students aware of the use of adjectives in a sentence
- ii. To familiarize students with different kinds adjectives; and

1. Definition:

An **adjective** is a part of speech which modifies a noun or a pronoun.

2. Forms of adjectives:

Adjectives have three different forms, **positive**, **comparative**, and **superlative**:

The positive form is the base form of the adjective.

-He is **tall**. / - it's **interesting**.

The comparative form is used for comparing two persons or things; it expresses a higher degree of some quality.

- He is **taller** than me. / - The book was **more interesting** than the film.

The superlative form is used for comparing one person or thing with every other member of their group; it expresses the highest degree.

- He was the **tallest** boy in the class. / - It's the **most interesting** book I've ever read.

2. The rule to form comparatives and superlatives:

Short adjectives (one or two syllables):

1. One-syllable adjective ending in a silent 'e' — **nice**.

- Comparative — add 'r' — **nicer**
- Superlative — add 'st' — **nicest**

1. One syllable adjective ending in one vowel and one consonant — **big**

- Comparative — the consonant is doubled and 'er' is added — **bigger**
- Superlative — the consonant is doubled and 'est' is added — **biggest**

2. One syllable adjective ending in more than one consonant or more than a vowel — **high**, **cheap**

- Comparative — 'er' is added — **higher**, **cheaper**
- Superlative — 'est' is added — **highest**, **cheapest**

3. A two syllable adjective ending in 'y' — **happy**

- Comparative — 'y' becomes 'i' and 'er' is added — **happier**
- Superlative — 'y' becomes 'i' and 'est' is added — **happiest**

Long adjectives (more than two syllables):

Irregular comparative and superlative :

Adjectives	Comparatives	Superlatives
bad	Worse	Worst
far(distance)	Farther	Farthest
good	Better	Best
little	Less	Least
many	More	Most

4. Use of adjectives: attributive or predicative

Adjectives are used in two main ways; they can either be **attributive** or they can be **predicative**.

Attributive adjectives:

When the adjective is used before a noun:

a black cat

Predicative adjectives:

Adjectives are said to be predicative when they are used as the complement of the verb 'to be', or other similar verbs such as 'get', 'become', 'grow', 'look', or 'seem', etc.

The cat is black

2. Types of adjectives

There exist several types of adjectives namely:

- 1 / **SIZE** : Large, small, tiny, enormous
- 2 / **AGE** : New, young, old, ancient
- 3 / **SHAPE** : Square, round, rectangular, flat
- 4 / **COLOUR** : Blue, pink, yellow, crimson
- 5 / **ORIGIN** : English, American, Chinese, French
- 6 / **MATERIAL**: Plastic, cardboard, glass, wooden
- 7 / **PURPOSE** : Racing car, frying pan, rocking chair

1 / **OPINION** : Nice, ugly, dirty

Time for practice

In the following sentences, underline the adjectives and identify the type of each adjective:

1. At home there is a beautiful square wooden table in the dining room. 2. I was offered an unusual gold ring by my husband.

3. My grandmother has knitted a nice new woolen pullover for me. 4. It is really a warm nice weather today.

5. She has beautiful long black hair.

References

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